Receipt of this order may be acknowledged.

Sd/-
(K. V. KRISHNAMURTHY)
Asstt. Director General (PHB)

**Railway mail service in the country**

868. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway mail service which was operating for the last si many years has been withdrawn resulting in the delay in postal deliveries;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the postal services for the last so many years have deteriorated to a great extent and mails are delivered very late ss compared to previous service;

(d) if so, what measures are being taken to improve postal services;

(e) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to restart the railway mail service for effecting quick deliveries of postal mail; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. the Railway Mail Service continues to operate as part of the Postal System.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Taking into account all relevant factors, the Department had taken a decision to utilise the exising accommodation in RMS Mail Vans for conveyance of pre-sorted mail. The position is reviewed from time to time and so far there have been no circumstances justifying a revision of this policy. Reviews have shown that the operational change indicated above has had no significant bearing on time of transit bags rather than sorting of mails, delivery of mails; while at the same time considerable economy of expenditure has been achieved.

**Arbitration Board to settle the disputes in telecom commission**

869. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom commission has decided to set up an arbitration board to settle the disputes between service providers and subscribers;

(b) whether it has also been decided to segregate subscribers into business and non business categories for charging a higher tariff from the former group and lower from the latter groups;

(c) whether these decisions were passed on the recommendations made by the BICP; and

(d) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKR RAM): (a) to (c). Sir, Telecom. Commission has accepted the recommendation of BICP for setting up of Arbitration Board to sort put billing and other disputes. Implementation details are being worked out and will be decided after consulting the Ministry of Law.